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# Uncertainty on fringe projection technique: a Monte-Carlo-based approach

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## Abstract

Error estimation on optical full field techniques (OFFT) is millstone in the diffusion of OFFT. The present work describes a generic way to estimate overall error in fringe projection, either due to random sources (phase error, basically related to the quality of the camera and of the fringe extraction algorithm) or the bias (calibration errors). Here, a high level calibration procedure based on pinhole model has been implemented. This model compensates for the divergence effects of both the video-projector and the camera. The work is based on a Monte Carlo procedure. So far, the complete models of the calibration procedure and of a reference experiment are necessary. Here, the reference experiment consists in multiple step out-of-plane displacement of a plane surface. Main conclusions of this work are: 1/ the uncertainties in the calibration procedure lead to a global rotation of the plane, 2/ the overall error has been calculated in two situations; the overall error ranges from 104  $\mu\text{m}$  down to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , 3/ the main error source is the phase error even if errors due to the calibration are not always negligible.

*Keywords:* Fringe projection; Uncertainty analysis; Monte Carlo error propagation

## 1. Introduction

Optical full field techniques (OFFT) are nowadays common tools in university laboratories.

1 Anyway, the confidence on the result obtained is poorly described, and error estimation on  
2 OFFT is millstone in their diffusion in industrial world. Usually, the measuring chain is  
3 complex, implying optical elements, numerical processing (correlation, phase extraction ...)  
4 and post-processing (derivation, filtering ...). A lot of work has been carried out in order to  
5 improve and/or characterize each element of the measuring chain, in particular for image  
6 correlation [1] [2] or phase extraction [3]. Again, some experimental work gives a global sight  
7 on errors, see for example [4] or [5]. Some work also was done in order to reduce phase errors  
8 (see for example [6]). Anyway, overall measurement error still never has been achieved, in  
9 particular because of the difficulties to integrate different error sources, among them errors  
10 due calibration procedure. Prediction through error model is not straightforward and usually  
11 cannot be achieved using standard error propagation rules. Previous works show the  
12 efficiency of Monte-Carlo based procedure on specific element of the measuring chain.  
13 Description of the error on phase extraction has been provided by Cordero [7]; post-  
14 processing derivation has been investigated in the same way [8]. Beside these two general  
15 purpose works, a study on 3D ESPI leads to an optimal position of illumination vectors [9].  
16 Anyway, no global prediction approach has been carried out to the best of our knowledge.  
17 Among the different OFFTs, fringe projection is one of the more spread, since its first  
18 development [10~12]. Basically, the method renders a shape [5] or a shape variation [13].  
19 Coupled with a 2D correlation system, it can be extended to the measurement of any  
20 displacement of a non-flat surface [14, 15, 16]. Since it is a non-contacting method, a lot of  
21 applications are developed or under development in health engineering (see for example [17,  
22 18, 19]).  
23 The present work describes a generic way to estimate overall error in fringe projection, either  
24 due to random sources (phase error, basically related to the quality of the camera and of the  
25 fringe extraction algorithm) or the bias (calibration errors). Here, a high level calibration

procedure based on pinhole model has been implemented [18]. This model compensates for the divergence effects of both the video-projector and the camera. The Monte Carlo procedure requires complete models of the calibration procedure and of the reference experiment. Here, the reference experiment consists in multiple steps out-of-plane displacement of a plane surface. In order to give boundary values to the overall error, two different situations are investigated: the first one is common macroscopic fringe projection set-up. The second one is a microscopic set-up, optimized for random noise for example considering a larger set of images in the phase extraction.

The paper presents first the Monte-Carlo procedure; then, the specific fringe projection approach is described. Last, the implementation for a given set of experimental conditions is developed, results are analyzed.

## 2. Monte Carlo based uncertainty approach

The uncertainty associated with the result of a measurement is a parameter that characterizes the dispersion of values that can reasonably be attributed to the measurand. Operationally, the dispersion of values of some quantity  $Q$  is described by a probability density function (PDF),  $f(Q)$ . The domain of the PDF consists of all possible values of  $Q$ , and its range is in the interval (0,1). If the PDF is known, the estimate of  $Q$  is obtained by evaluating the expected value and its standard uncertainty is taken to be equal to the standard deviation [25].

Although obtaining the most appropriate PDF for a particular application is not straightforward, if the measurand  $Q$  is related to a set of other quantities  $P = (P_1 \dots P_{n_p})^T$  through a *measurement model*  $Q = M(P)$ , linear or weakly non-linear, the standard uncertainty of  $Q$  can be expressed in terms of the standard uncertainties of the *input quantities*

$(P_1 \dots P_{n_p})$  by using the so-called law of propagation of uncertainties (LPU) [25, 26]. Instead of the LPU, a Monte Carlo-based technique [22-24] can be applied to linear as well as to nonlinear models, on independent or co-varying error sources.

The Monte Carlo-based technique requires first assigning Probability Density Functions (PDFs) to each input quantity. Next, a computer algorithm is set up to generate an input vector  $P_1 = (p_1 \dots p_{n_p})^T$ ; each element  $p_j$  of this vector is generated according to the specific PDF assigned to the corresponding quantity  $P_j$ . By applying the generated vector  $P_1$  to the model  $Q = M(P)$ , the corresponding output value  $q_1$  can be computed. If the simulating process is repeated  $N$  times ( $N \gg 1$ ), the outcome is a series of indications  $(q_1 \dots q_N)^T$  whose frequency distribution allows us to identify the PDF of  $Q$ ,  $f(q)$ . Then, irrespective of the form of this PDF, the estimate  $q_e$  and its associated standard uncertainty  $u(q_e)$  can be calculated by

$$q_e = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{l=1}^N q_l \quad (1)$$

and

$$u(q_e) = \left( \frac{1}{(N-1)} \sum_{l=1}^N (q_l - q_e)^2 \right)^{1/2} \quad (2)$$

Knowledge of each element of the  $P$  vector, in particular the uncertainty level and the PDF shape, directly derives from the experimental knowledge. So far, a good understanding of the whole set-up and procedure is necessary. Here, we suppose that each error source is independent; anyway, cross-dependent inputs are possible.

### 3. The pin-hole Model

The classical pin-hole model characterizes the geometrical relationship between a point in 3D

1 space and its projection on a plane behind another plane in which an aperture was performed.  
2 This aperture is supposed to be a point (hence the name pinhole). The figure 1 illustrates the  
3 principle of the pin-hole model in two dimensions, as the 3D extrapolation is quite simple.  
4  $O$  is the aperture and  $Y$  is the plane in which the aperture was performed,  $P$  is the point in  
5 3D space,  $x_p$  and  $y_p$  its coordinate.  $Q$  is the projection of  $P$  in the projection plane  $Y'$ ,  
6  $f$  and  $y_q$  are its coordinates. Then, the simple equation  $y_q = -f \frac{y_p}{x_p}$  describes the relationship  
7 between a point  $P$  in 3D space and its projection  $Q$  in 2D plane. The dotted line is called the  
8 *projection line*. This model is generally used in shape / displacement measurement systems to  
9 account for perspective effects, either for fringe projection [18] [27] or stereo-correlation [28].  
10 Note anyway that the following work takes into account perspective effects with an  
11 assumption of negligible distortions. In the same way, the optical model does not take into  
12 account off-axis arrangement that should be found in many video-projectors. These two points  
13 can be considered as the main limitations of the presented work; anyway, the material used in  
14 the following is chosen under these hypothesis: dedicated low-distortion lenses, and an in line  
15 video-projector.

16

## 17 **4. 3D surface implementation**

### 18 **4.1. PRINCIPLE OF FRINGE PROJECTION**

19 The fringe projection method has already been described by many authors [13, 16, 17, 21].  
20 The physical principle is straightforward: a periodic pattern is projected on an object; the light  
21 is diffused by the object and captured by a CCD video-camera. The deformation of the  
22 fringes, recorded as phase maps, has a known dependency to the shape of the illuminated

1 object.

2 Since the fringe projection technique uses the light diffused by an object in order to measure  
 3 its shape or shape variation, a surface preparation consisting usually in a white paint is  
 4 sometimes useful. Moreover, in order to observe out-of-plane displacements, the angle  
 5 between the projected fringes and the observed diffused light must not be null (fig. 3). Light  
 6 intensities on an object illuminated by a set of fringes can be described by a periodic function  
 7  $I_{ii}$ , with a perturbation  $\phi$  corresponding to the object shape:

$$8 \quad I_{ii}(x, y) = I_0(x, y) \left[ 1 + \gamma(x, y) \cos \left( \frac{2\pi}{p(x, y)} y + \phi(x, y) \right) \right] \quad (3)$$

10 This equation involves an average intensity  $I_0$  and a contrast  $\gamma$ . These values should be  
 11 constant over the whole map, but some low-frequency variations due to illumination  
 12 inhomogeneity or diffusivity changes on top of the surface can occur. Consequently, both  
 13 average intensity and contrast have to be considered as local quantities and can be denoted  
 14  $I_0(x, y)$  and  $\gamma(x, y)$ . The pitch,  $p$  is the distance between two light peaks on a flat surface i.e. a  
 15 period of the cosine function in the ideal case. Again, due to perspective effects in particular,  
 16 this pitch can change over the map, but this variation can be known either using a model or a  
 17 calibration procedure. Last, the object is responsible for a phase shift  $\phi = \phi(x, y)$  at each point  
 18 of the field, as expressed by:

$$20 \quad \phi(x, y) = \frac{2\pi \tan \theta(x, y)}{p(x, y)} z(x, y) \quad (4)$$

21

22 In this expression, the sensitivity characterized by the slope of the linear relationship between

1  $\varphi(x,y)$  and  $z(x,y)$ , can be adjusted by modifying the pitch  $p$  or the angle  $\theta$  between the CCD  
 2 video-camera and the video-projector. Again, it has to be noted that the sensitivity can vary  
 3 locally. In particular, the video projector and the CCD camera commonly use divergent lens.  
 4 Since the sensitivity usually varies within the measuring area, a more complete model has to  
 5 be used; here, the pin-hole model is chosen because it is simple and therefore open to  
 6 interpretation.

#### 7 4.2. APPLICATION OF THE PIN-HOLE MODEL

8 The classical pin-hole model is well adapted to such a configuration. Parameters of the model  
 9 are:

- 10 • the camera magnification along the vertical axis ( $\gamma_{CCD}$ ) and along the horizontal axis

$$11 \quad \frac{\gamma_{CCD}}{\tau_{CCD}},$$

- 12 • the distance between the CCD camera and the reference plane ( $h_0$ ),
- 13 • the distance between the video-projector and the reference plane ( $h_p$ ),
- 14 • the distance between the video-projector focal point and the CCD camera axis ( $d$ ).

15

16 Measuring all these parameters is difficult in practice and an inverse calibration is more  
 17 adapted. Here, the calibration is based on the known rotation of a reference plane [18].

18

19 Now, application of the pin-hole model gives the following set of equations:

20



$$\begin{aligned}
1 \quad z(r, s) &= \frac{h_p h_o \left[ (2\pi f_p h_p - P_t d \phi) \frac{Y_{CCD}}{T_{CCD}} \times r - P_t (d^2 + h_p^2) \phi(r, s) \right]}{h_o \left[ (2\pi f_p h_p - P_t d \phi) d + P_t (d^2 + h_p^2) \phi(r, s) \right] - h_p \left[ 2\pi f_p h_p - P_t d \phi(r, s) \right] \frac{Y_{CCD}}{T_{CCD}} \times r} \\
2 \quad x(r, s) &= \frac{z(r, s) + h_0}{h_0} \frac{Y_{CCD}}{T_{CCD}} \times r \\
3 \quad y(r, s) &= \frac{z(r, s) + h_0}{h_0} Y_{CCD} \times s
\end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

4 The point  $A(x, y, z)$  is known for any position in the object plane, referred by the coordinates  
5  $M(r, s)$ . Note that  $x$  and  $y$  coordinates don't correspond to the  $\left( \frac{Y_{CCD}}{T_{CCD}} \times r, Y_{CCD} \times s \right)^t$  because  
6 of the perspective effect on the camera.

#### 7 4.3. PHASE EXTRACTION

8 Extraction of the phase from intensity map(s) requires either spatial or temporal phase shifting  
9 techniques. The Photomecanix software, developed in the laboratory, has genuine  
10 implementation of both techniques, as prescribed by Surrel [29]. The choice only depends on  
11 the situation: if temporal effects are expected, spatial phase shifting is more appropriate,  
12 because it only requires one image [30]. If not, temporal phase shifting technique should be  
13 preferred for its higher spatial resolution [13]. Only this method is briefly described here.

14 A set of  $n \times q$  fringe patterns with a known phase shift  $q/2\pi$  is projected successively on the  
15 surface, first and last fringe pattern being shifted by a  $n \times 2\pi$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  phase. Then, the intensity  
16 variation at each point (i.e. each camera pixel) corresponds to a sine wave function with an  
17 initial phase shift. The phase is evaluated using the Fourier Transform:

18

$$\phi(r, s) = \arctan_{2\pi} \left( \frac{\sum_{k=1}^{nq} \left\{ \sin \left( k \square \frac{2\pi}{q} \right) I_k(r, s) \right\}}{\sum_{k=1}^{nq} \left\{ \cos \left( k \square \frac{2\pi}{q} \right) I_k(r, s) \right\}} \right) \quad (6)$$

This implementation is based on a sine-wave variation of the projected light. Actually, the video-projector or the camera has a non-linear response; so far, the recorded signal exhibits some harmonics due to this non-linearity. Surrrel has proved that the implementation he proposed minimizes the harmonics effect [29]; in practice, harmonics might have amplitude similar to the random noise, and do not present a specific and significant error source: in the error propagation model, these two effects will be represented by the same parameter. Indeed, some recent works tend to minimize these harmonics effects, see for example [6].

Metrological performances of the shape measurement set-up are interesting compared to the classical stereovision technique: the spatial resolution is 1 pixel (8 to 156  $\mu\text{m}$ , depending on the field of view), and the typical resolution ranges from  $\sigma = 0.5$  to 1 hundredth of fringe, i.e. 3  $\mu\text{m}$  at best. This capacity is very important for high frequency phenomena monitoring: skin submitted to mechanical load [17, 19], cuticle sleeves [20], ...

## 5. Experimental set-up and performances

### 5.1. OPTICAL TEST-RIG

The optical set-up for 3D measurement is a classical fringe projection set-up, with a pocket-projector 3M MPRO 110 of 640×480 pixels resolution and an 8 bits CCD camera Imaging

1 Source of 1280×960 pixels resolution. This solution is adapted to fields of investigation from  
 2  $10 \times 7 \text{ mm}^2$  to  $200 \times 150 \text{ mm}^2$  (see figure 2).  
 3 The system uses a low-distortion lens (Linos,  $0.3 \times f/8$ ). The evaluation of the distortion using  
 4 Bouquet algorithm [31] shows that the error related to this parameter is very low (less than  
 5  $10^{-4}$ ). In the following, this error will not be considered for the sake of simplicity. The  
 6 selected video-projector has no lens offset. Such an offset would result in a vertical  
 7 translation of the optical axis; a global uncertainty range for the vertical translation is  
 8 proposed hereafter.

## 9 5.2. CALIBRATION PROCEDURE

10 The calibration procedure is divided into two steps: first, the phase map of a plane  
 11 perpendicular to the camera axis is taken. Second, the plane is rotated along the vertical axis,  
 12 and a second phase map is recorded. Even if the method is straightforward, some hypothesis  
 13 should be fulfilled: video-projector and camera axis should converge on a single point, this  
 14 point being on the rotation axis; rotation axis should be perpendicular to the plane defined by  
 15 the camera axis and the video-projector axis, and parallel to the fringes (Figure 2).  
 16 A complete strategy has been established to fulfill these requirements: the camera and the  
 17 video-projector are mounted on translation and rotation stages, allowing fine adjustments. The  
 18 camera is set in a Galilean frame of reference using a spirit level. The reference plane is put at  
 19 the desired distance; the position perpendicular to the camera is obtained using spirit level and  
 20 distance measurement using reference points on the camera and on the plane. Last, the video-  
 21 projector position is adjusted using a projected cross and a reference cross inserted in the  
 22 image (Figure 4). The centers of the cross materialize the optical axis respectively of video-  
 23 projector and of the camera, and both centers have to be superposed. The vertical and

1 horizontal lines make visible the horizontal and the vertical axis of each frame of reference.  
2 Again, these lines have to be superposed.

3 This implementation is verified after completing a first calibration by analyzing the shape of  
4 each plane: at the reference position, the tilting of the plane can be evaluated. After rotation,  
5 the difference between the two positions indicates the verticality of the rotation axis and its  
6 position compared to the camera frame of reference. The implementation is independent of  
7 the position of the rotation axis, but it is better to center it in order to obtain a symmetric  
8 calibrated volume. Finally, it is then possible to have an experimental estimate of the plane  
9 tilting, and rotation axis; the calibration is validated if the tilting of the plane or the rotation  
10 axis is lower than 1/10th of millimeter, this value being a minimum adjustable value  
11 considering the set-up.

12 Last, the phase quality can be estimated by comparing the theoretical phase surface to the  
13 experimental one. In the particular case shown Figure 5/a, the phase error is strongly affected  
14 by harmonics due to a non-sinusoidal fringe intensity shape. This situation is usually rejected,  
15 and illumination is more carefully tuned, but it is a didactic example to show the fringe  
16 correction implemented: because the phase error due to harmonics is deterministic, it can be  
17 compensated using a look-up table, see Figure 5/b. In this last situation, the main part of the  
18 phase error is cancelled, with some low-frequency fluctuations related to the reference  
19 surface. Now, an analysis on the error distribution (Figure 5/c and 5/d) shows that the phase  
20 error can be modeled as a random Gaussian distribution at a global level. Moment normality  
21 tests are positive for each situation; residue normality test is positive only for the corrected  
22 phase map.

23 Note that the system has to be calibrated after each geometrical change in the configuration,  
24 but not before each new experiment.

### 5.3. SHAPE MEASUREMENT

A reference experimental test has been specially designed: it consists of a sphere cut in a plate. The system has a standard macroscopic design, with no special optimization for this specimen. Result is presented Figure 6.

The depression in the plate has been estimated using least square approximations of a sphere and of a plate. The deepness is defined by the length between the lower sphere point and its projection on the plate. Because of averaging effects due to the high number of measurement points, this value becomes almost insensitive to noise. It has been measured to 2.10 mm and the sphere radius to 15.17 mm. High frequency component of the experimental field is used to estimate random phase noise. Its standard deviation is representative of the common values encountered in the laboratory (43  $\mu\text{m}$ ). A comparison between the results obtained for the sphere deepness and a dial indicator is given Table 1. The dial indicator has a resolution of 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , so a difference in height has a resolution of 14  $\mu\text{m}$ . Difference between fringe projection and the dial indicator is 107  $\mu\text{m}$ . This value can be related to some systematic errors, in particular due to the calibration procedure, but also errors during the measurements using the dial indicator.

## 6. Measurement models and error analysis

### 6.1. SIMULATED CONDITIONS

Calibration of the system is realized with the help of a white rectangular plate (figure 2). Calibration procedure used in this document is based on the following simplifying assumptions:

- 1 1- each optical axis converges in the middle of the plate,
- 2 2- plate rotation axis is located at the surface of this plate, passing through the convergence
- 3 axis,
- 4 3- plate rotation is perpendicular to the optical axis planes,
- 5 4- rotation angle is perfectly defined.

6 Of course, in real conditions, these assumptions are not completely true, and errors on these  
 7 assumptions should be taken into account in order to evaluate the global uncertainty level on  
 8 the fringe projection process. Other error sources are related to the intensity measurement and  
 9 the phase extraction [7]. These errors are summarized as a random error on the phase  
 10 measurement. Last, camera lens distortion is not added to the model because it should become  
 11 too complex regarding the influence of the optical arrangement on the out-of-plane  
 12 information ( $z$ ) (see paragraph 5. ).

13 Within the Monte-Carlo framework, it is necessary to model the optical system, including its  
 14 possible defects, and to give a probability density function (PDF) for each error source. In  
 15 order to achieve such a goal, the approach will take into account the whole calibration  
 16 procedure, giving an estimate of the calibration parameters and, later, on the  $z(x, y)$  function.  
 17 The measuring system model implemented for this Monte-Carlo approach will consider the  
 18 following uncertainties: the position of the reference plane, a random additive phase noise, an  
 19 error on apparent pixel size, and an error on the rotation value.

20 In order to have a good comparison on the different situations, some experimental data are  
 21 necessary to give a ground truth. A reference situation, corresponding to the laboratory  
 22 practice is defined. The field of view is  $68 \times 54 \text{ mm}^2$  and the sensitivity set to 5 mm per fringe.  
 23 Resolution is supposed to be  $1/100^{\text{th}}$  fringe, i.e. 50  $\mu\text{m}$ . Corresponding geometrical data are

given in Table 2; the input positioning error is set to 2 mm for each geometrical parameter, corresponding to a relative error around 1% (see Table 2). All calibration data – including PDFs – are summarized in Table 3. The values are evaluated from laboratory experience.

Study will be held 1/ considering independently each error source 2/ using independent sources all together. Each case study uses 40 random samples, giving a compromise between calculation time and precision.

## 6.2. SHAPE UNCERTAINTY

In order to evaluate the influence of calibration procedure on shape reconstruction, a very simple test is proposed: it consists in reconstructing the  $z = 0$  mm plane, translating it and reconstructing it at the position  $z = 1$  mm and  $z = 2$  mm. The exact shape is completely known, the shape variation as well.

Analysis of the results is based first on the bias i.e. the mismatch between the mean and the expected value. Figure 7 shows the bias on the reconstruction of plane  $z = 0$  mm for different rotation angle, in absence of any kind of uncertainty (reference), with each uncertainty source (rotation angle, reference plane angle, reference plane translation, magnification) and with the conjunction of all the uncertainty sources (denoted “Total”). Results show that the mean position is very close to the theoretical one in any conditions: bias error is found to be close to  $2 \times 10^{-7}$  mm. It is worth noting that the global error is lower than certain individual errors. This shows compensation effects between the different error sources. Surprisingly, the global error level seems to be independent of the rotation angle. Addition test cases up to  $15^\circ$  show the same trends; this value is a high limit regarding the practical difficulties on using such

angles. Figure 8 indicates that the standard deviation is considerably higher ( $3 \times 10^{-4}$  m). The values estimated on the  $z = 1$  mm and  $z = 2$  mm planes are the same. The shape variation has a better quality anyway: the order of magnitude of the bias is the same, but the standard deviation is significantly lower ( $7 \times 10^{-5}$  mm). A simple explanation can be proposed: when performing a differential measurement, the same calibration coefficients are used, and some compensation effects exist. The analysis of reconstructed maps clearly shows that the standard deviation amplitude on shape maps is due to a deterministic effect: the position of the plane is rotated in space, or, in other words, the position of the virtual reference plane is erroneous. This problem should be considered in many cases as a minor problem.

Now, it is interesting to quantify how the calibration errors may induce a reconstruction error independently from the reference plane absolute position. Because the tests are pure translation, the reconstruction error can be simply defined as the difference between the current reconstructed shape and the plane fitting the field in the least square error assumption. The reconstruction error is divided into two contributions: a high frequency one, representing a random error, mainly related to the phase error, and a low-frequency one, related to calibration uncertainties. This latter might be approximated by a quadratic function, and results in an erroneous curvature. In the following, the calibration uncertainties will only be characterized by a standard deviation. Calibration uncertainties represent  $15 \mu\text{m}$  and the random noise  $50 \mu\text{m}$  in the studied case ( $P = 66 \%$ ). As a consequence, the calibration seems sufficiently efficient, and efforts have to be put on the random phase noise. The total error on the instrument is in this situation  $104 \mu\text{m}$  ( $P = 95 \%$ ).

Last, a second test-case has been studied, corresponding to a high-sensitivity set-up: the field of view has been decreased to  $41 \times 31 \text{ mm}^2$ ; the fringe density has been set to a maximum value, considering both the camera and the video-projector resolution (8 pixels per fringe).



Global geometry is the same, even if optical elements are supposed to be ten times closer. Rotation angles are identical as before (see Tables 4 and 5). Last, the random noise level has been decreased, considering that for high sensitivity results, a quasi-static situation may be achieved and that a higher number of pictures should be taken. Noise level has been set to a reasonable minimum value of 0.5 % of fringe. In this situation, mean sensitivity is 0.6 mm/fringe. The same trends are observed in this configuration, but the scale itself is decreased. Random error is 3  $\mu\text{m}$ , and bias due to mispositioning is 4  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $P = 66\%$ ). In this situation, the total error on the instrument is estimated to be 10  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $P = 95\%$ ).

It is worth noting that the two overall error values (10  $\mu\text{m}$  and 104  $\mu\text{m}$ ) correspond to the experience in the laboratory, as illustrated in section 5.3. . Error is mainly determined by the random error (phase error) and by the set-up sensitivity. With a high sensitivity set-up (second case), the random error becomes small enough so that the calibration error becomes significant.

## 7. Summary and conclusions

Error estimation on optical full field techniques (OFFT) is millstone in the diffusion of OFFT. The present work describes a generic way to estimate overall error in fringe projection, either due to random sources (phase error, basically related to the quality of the camera and of the fringe extraction algorithm) or the bias (calibration errors). Here, a high level calibration procedure based on pinhole model has been implemented. This model compensates for the divergence effects of both the video-projector and the camera.

The work is based on a Monte Carlo procedure. So far, the complete models of the calibration procedure and of a reference experiment are necessary. Here, the reference experiment consists in multiple step out-of-plane displacements of a plane surface. Using this very simple

1 test, it is possible to observe that:

2 1- The uncertainties in the calibration procedure lead to a global rotation of the plane ; this  
3 means that a surface is reconstructed in a frame of reference slightly different from the global  
4 frame of reference of the experimental set-up. As a matter of fact, a variation between a  
5 reference position and a stressed one becomes independent of this parameter.

6 2- The overall error has been calculated in two situations: a macroscopic one, with standard  
7 noise level, and a microscopic one, with a lower -but still realistic- noise level. The overall  
8 error ranges from 104  $\mu\text{m}$  down to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

9 3- The main error source is the phase error at a macroscopic level and at a microscopic level,  
10 even if in this latter, errors due to the calibration are not negligible any more.

11

12 Results are calibration-dependent: using another calibration procedure might lead to a  
13 different error distribution between calibration error and phase error. Anyway, as a generic  
14 tool, the Monte-Carlo procedure has to be considered.

15 Finally, the aim of such a tool is to give some quantitative data on the overall uncertainty; this  
16 work can be easily used to determine before experiments the performance of a fringe  
17 projection set-up. So far, it has been proved here to be efficient to find some interesting  
18 features at a microscopic level.

19

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## 1 **List of tables**

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	Value	Resolution
Dial indicator	1.93 mm	14 $\mu\text{m}$
Fringe projection	2.1 mm	43 $\mu\text{m}$

**Table 1. Reference shape measurement: overall uncertainties of a fringe projection set-up.**

1

	$P_t/f_p$ (m/m)	$h_p$ (mm)	$h_0$ (mm)	$d$ (mm)
Reference value	$5.1 \times 10^{-3}$	- 474	- 340	341
Uncertainty	$7 \times 10^{-4}$	2	2	2
Error type	B	B	B	B

**Table 2. Geometrical parameters and uncertainties (macroscopic scale).**

2

1

Parameters	PDF	Nominal value	½ length or standard deviation	Error type
Calibration parameters				
$\alpha$	uniform	2.1 ° to 4.2 °	0.14 °	B
$\gamma_{\text{CCD}}$	gaussian	53 $\mu\text{m}$	0.06 $\mu\text{m}$	B
$\tau_{\text{CCD}}$	gaussian	1	0.017	B
Reference plane mispositionning				
$\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3$	gaussian	0	3 '	B
$x_1, x_2, x_3$	gaussian	0	0.25 mm	B
Phase dispersion				
$\delta\varphi$	gaussian	0	$10^{-2} \times 2\pi$	A

**Table 3. Calibration parameters and uncertainties (macroscopic scale).**

2

3

1

	$P_t/f_p$ (m/m)	$h_p$ (mm)	$h_0$ (mm)	$d$ (mm)
Reference value	$5.1 \times 10^{-3}$	-285	-197	205
Uncertainty	$1 \times 10^{-3}$	1	1	1
Error type	B	B	B	B

**Table 4. Geometrical parameters and uncertainties (microscopic scale).**

2

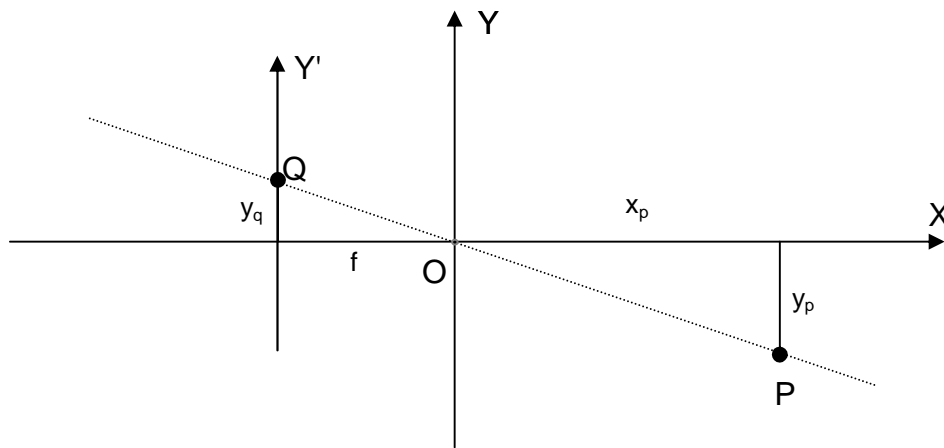
1

Parameters	PDF	Nominal value	½ length or standard deviation	Error type
Calibration parameters				
$\alpha$	uniform	2.1 ° to 4.2 °	0.14 °	B
$\gamma_{\text{CCD}}$	gaussian	32 $\mu\text{m}$	0.036 $\mu\text{m}$	B
$\tau_{\text{CCD}}$	gaussian	1	0.017	B
Reference plane mispositionning				
$\beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3$	gaussian	0	2 '	B
$x_1, x_2, x_3$	gaussian	0	0.16 mm	B
Phase dispersion				
$\delta\varphi$	gaussian	0	$0.5 \times 10^{-2} \times 2\pi$	A

**Table 5. Calibration parameters and uncertainties (microscopic scale).**

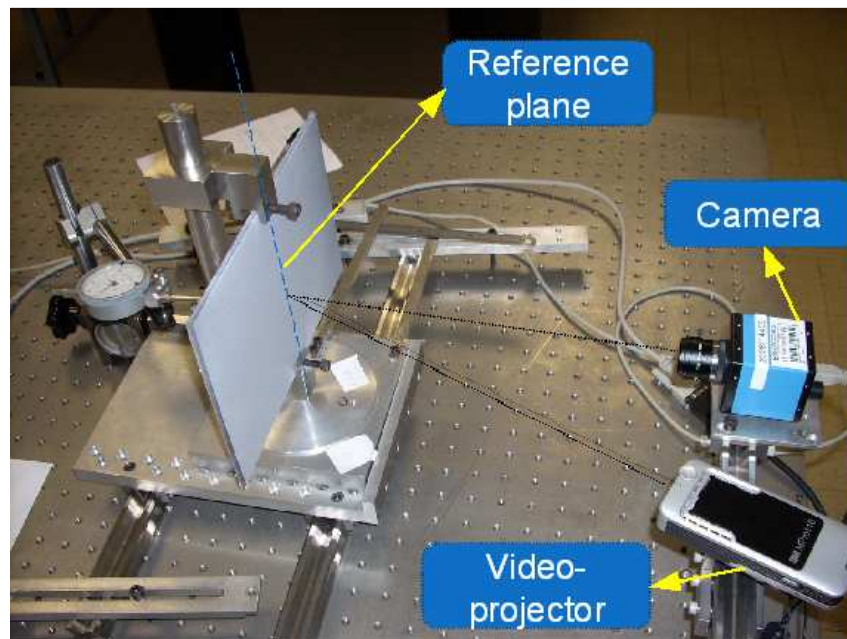
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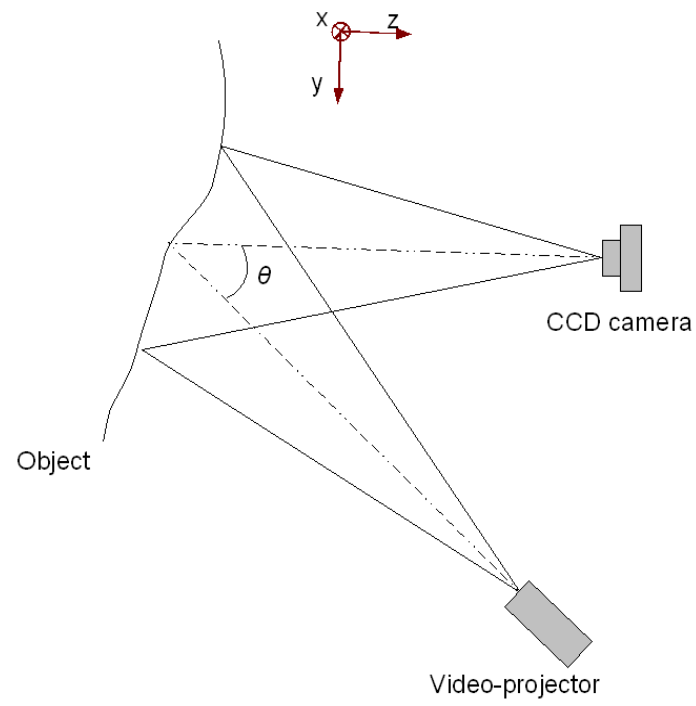
**Figure 1: Illustration of the pin-hole model.**

1



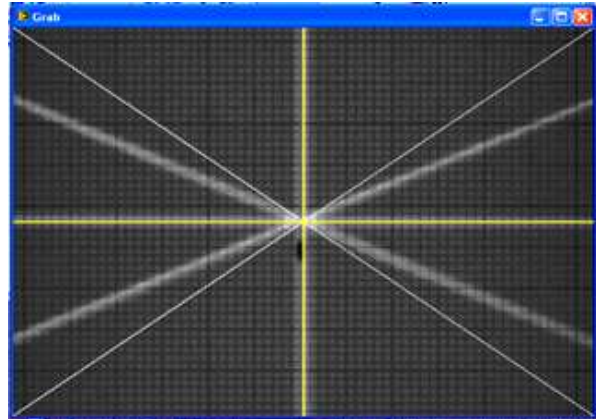
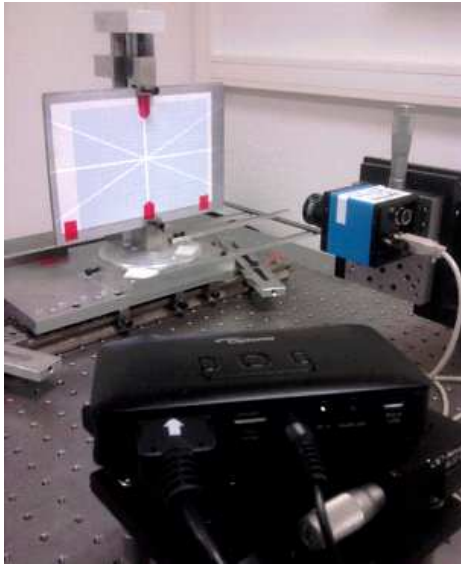
**Figure 2. Optical set-up and calibration test-rig.**

2

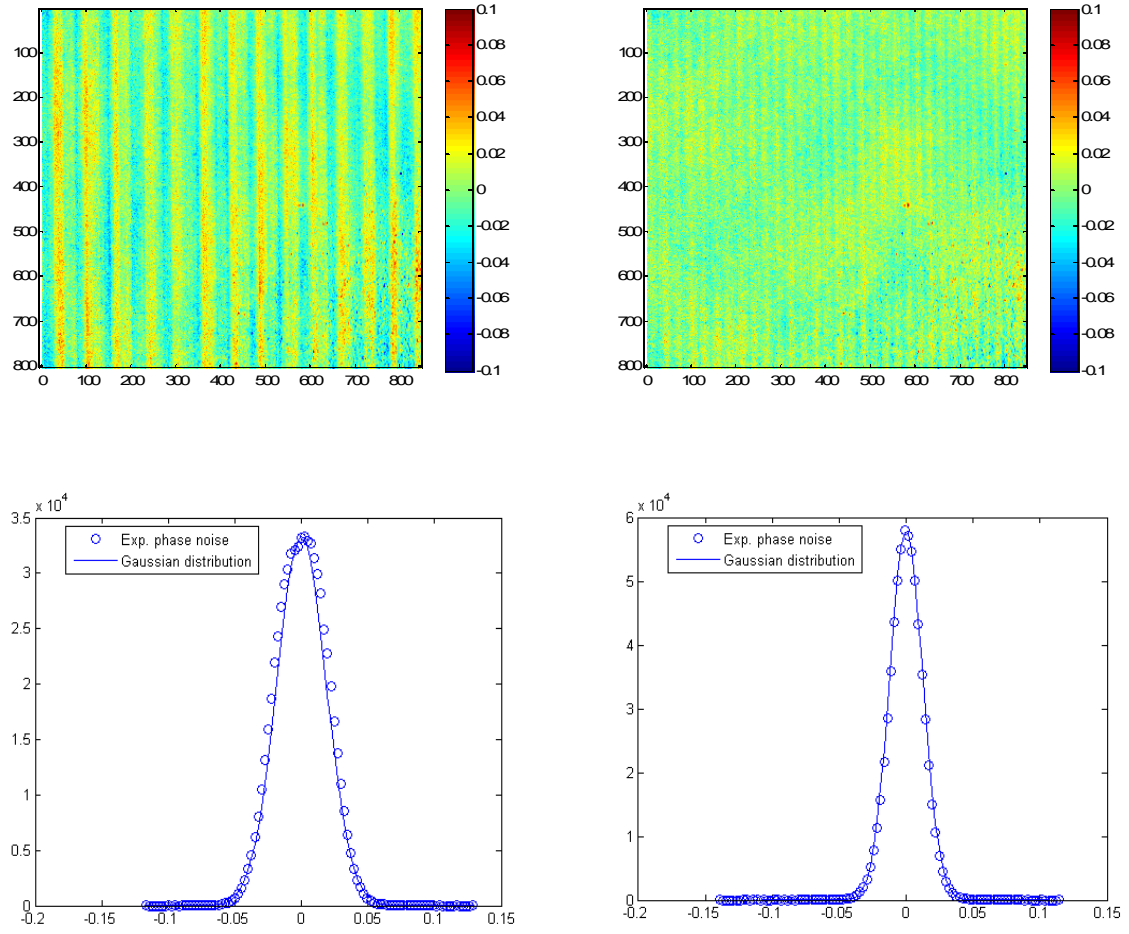


**Figure 3. Fringe projection basic principle.**



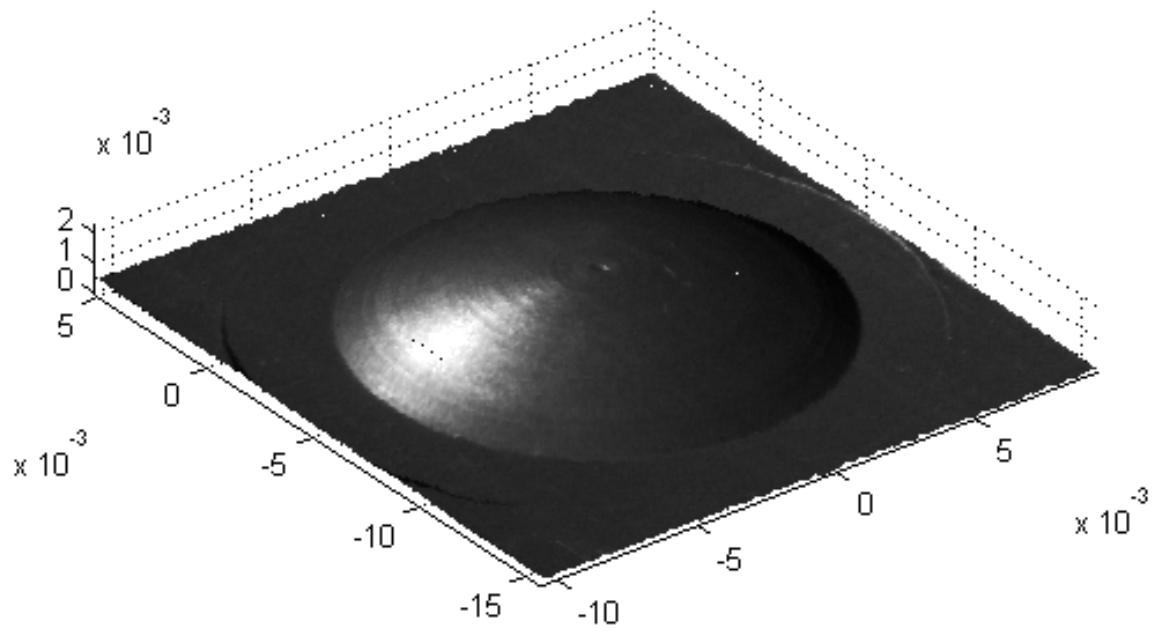


**Figure 4. Fringe projection calibration.**

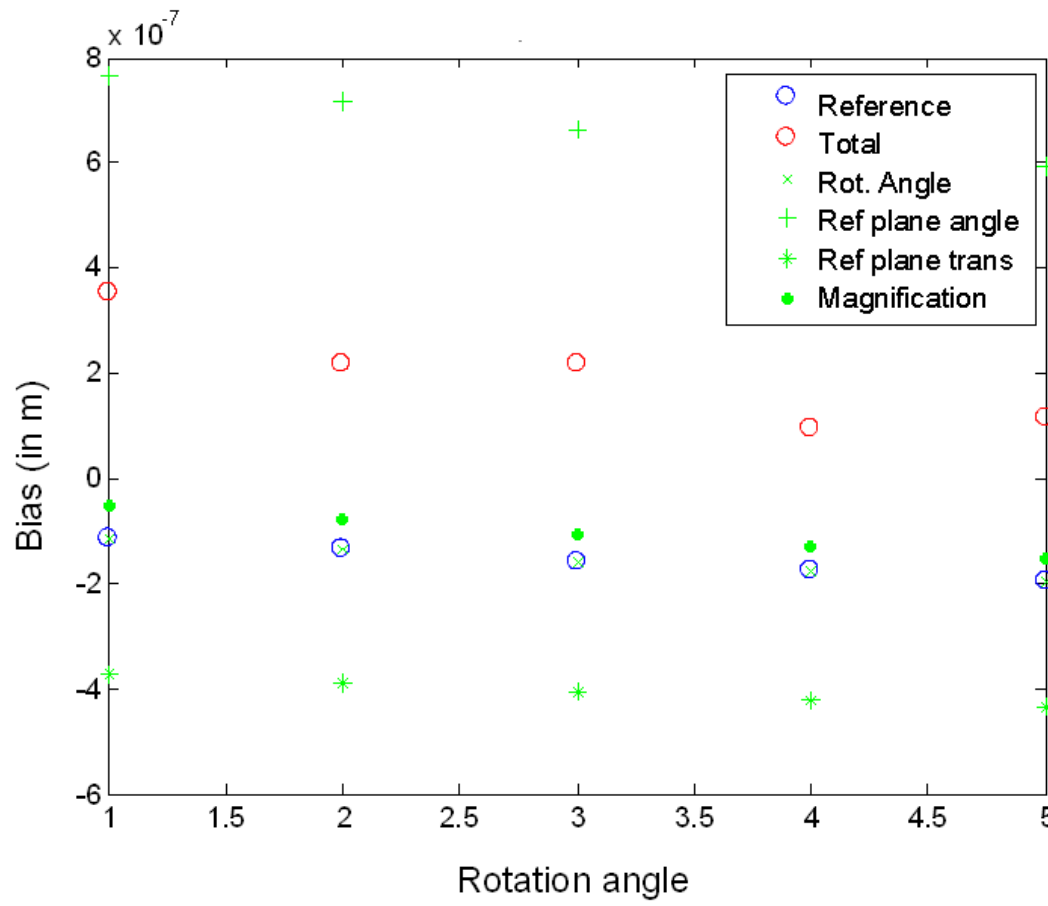


**Figure 5. Phase map error. a/ without correction b/ after correction c/ PDF of row map**

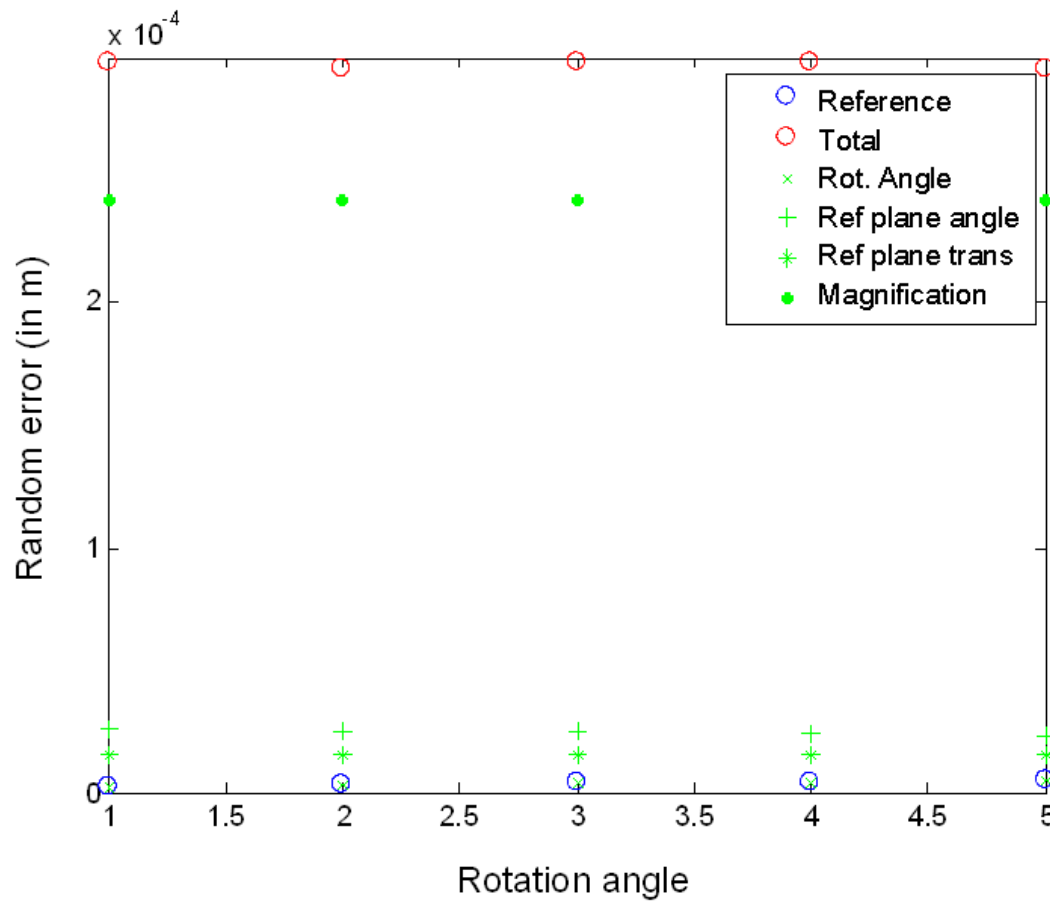
**( $\sigma = 0.3 \times 10^{-2} \times 2\pi$ ) d/ PDF of corrected map ( $\sigma = 0.2 \times 10^{-2} \times 2\pi$ ).**



**Figure 6. Reconstruction of a reference sphere-in-plate.**



**Figure 7. Bias on plane  $z = 0$  mm.**



**Figure 8. Random error on plane  $z = 0$  mm.**